



June 8, 2007

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary, Federal
Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room TW-B204
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC
Docket No. 05-337; In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board
on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am the president of a small ILEC, we serve 2000 customers located in 10 exchanges across Texas that include Erath, Comanche, Hamilton, Webb, Freestone, Limestone, Uvalde, Nolan, Fisher, Duval, Dimmitt, LaSalle and Maverick counties.

We are writing this letter to the Commission to endorse the recommendation of the Joint Board on Universal Service to place an interim, emergency cap on the amount of high-cost universal service support that competitive eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) may receive. High-cost loop support to rural incumbent ETCs is already capped. We agree with the Joint Board that an interim cap on competitive ETC support is appropriate until long term reform measures are implemented to ensure the long term sustainability of the universal service fund.

We appreciate the leadership of Commissioner Tate and the other members of the Joint Board and Staff as they consider the difficult questions associated with the distribution mechanism for universal service support.

We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers in Texas. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board the benefits that universal service provides to my rural customers would be in serious jeopardy.

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Sincerely,
Richard L. Allen

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate

Michael Conaway District 11
Chet Edwards District 17
Ciro Rodriguez District 23
Henry Cuellar District 28